A. G. Grove

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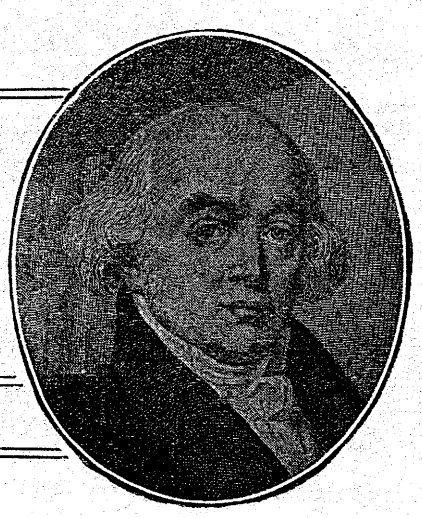

SAMUEL HAHNEMANN
1819—ÆT 64.

PLACATION IN EXCELSIS.

THE Liverpool Meeting of the Annual British Homœopathic Congress of 1928 will ever be memorable among the long series of these events for the distinguished place given in its programme to practitioners of the old School. It was perhaps natural that as guests they should be accorded the first place among the readers of papers, and it was equally natural that they should be given high places at the Banquet. This is all very pleasant, and the blessings promised to peace-makers should certainly fall on the heads of those who have brought about this state of happy confraternity.

Our only concern is to find out how far this happy-family kind of policy is going to further the advance of the homœopathic principle. The placation policy is not a new one, as a correspondent points out, for it was a recognised principle in the wars of ancient China. History does not say how far it was successful then, but it doesn't appear to be popular in China now.

The *Liverpool Post*, in reporting the Banquet speeches, one of which we reported in full in our last issue, headed its article "Medical Feud to End?". The speech which dealt with the subject of this query was very properly given to our good friend and predecessor in the

editorial chair of this journal, Dr. Charles Wheeler. For Dr. Wheeler is the Apostle of the Placation Policy. He has picked up the mantle dropped by the late Dr. Richard Hughes and wears it with much distinction.

In his speech Dr. Wheeler said of the feud that there was a growing tendency to put an end to it. The separation should never have come "and both sides should be generous enough to share the blame." We are quite certain that Dr. Wheeler is generous enough to share blame with anybody. But the unfortunate part of the business is that it is not a matter of "blame-sharing," "faults" or "feuds" at all, but of "facts." No amount of brotherly love can get over the fact that the Homœopathic Principle exists, and it is useless to attempt to placate anybody who does not own up to this. And those who acknowledge it require no placating.

Let us look at Berlin for a moment. Dr. August Bier didn't want placating. It was enough for him to see Dr. Haehl's *Life of Hahnemann*. Having seen that, and recognised how much he had lost by having been ignorant of the Homœopathic Principle all the years of his professional life, what did he do next? Did he gush about brotherly love and say that he was extremely placated? Not at all. He sent a friend to London to see if this country could give any lead to Germany in the teaching of Homœopathy. He built up a library of Homœopathic books in his University, and at length he has been instrumental in having a Professor of Homœopathic Medicine appointed in the University of Berlin.

Now, if the highly placated ones of the Liverpool Congress will follow Dr. August Bier's example, if they will purchase copies of Haehl's *Life of Hahnemann* in Mrs. F. J. Wheeler's translation,—the cheapest bit of book-stuff of its size, by the way, in the book-market

to-day, if we except the *Dictionary of Practical Materia Medica;*—if they will found Homœopathic Libraries in their colleges and get Dr. Wheeler, or Dr. Weir, appointed as Professor of Homœopathic Practice in one of the British Universities,—if they will do these things, then we shall acknowledge that Placation is an excellent policy. Short of this, we shall say it is just as profitable as the ancient Chinese method of softening the enemy's heart.

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